#### 1 BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION 2 3 In the Matter of 4 5 Republican Victory Committee, Inc., a/k/a 6 Republican Victory 2004 Committee 7 and Jody Navacek, in her official 8 capacity as treasurer **MUR 5472** 9 Jody Novacek, in her personal capacity 10 Jason Novacek Freeda Novacek 11 12 BPO, Inc. 13 **BPO Advantage LP** 14 15 16 **GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT #2** 17 18 I. **ACTIONS RECOMMENDED** 19 (1) Find probable cause to believe that the Republican Victory Committee, Inc. 20 a/k/a Republican Victory 2004 Committee and Jody Novacek, in her official capacity as 21 treasurer ("RVC") and Jody Novacek ("Ms. Novacek"), in her personal capacity, 22 knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(1); 23 (2) Find probable cause to believe that the RVC and Jody Novacek, in her official 24 capacity as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441d(a) and 441d(c); 25 (3) Find probable cause to believe that the BPO, Inc. and BPO Advantage LP 26 knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(2); 27 (4) Find no reason to believe Jason Novacek and Freeda Novacek violated the Act 28 and close the file as to these respondents: 29 (5) Take no further action in regard to the reason to believe findings that the RVC **30** and Jody Novacek, in her official capacity as treasurer and personal capacity, knowingly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Any reference to Ms. Novacek is intended to refer to her in her personal capacity; any reference to the Committee is intended to include Ms. Novacek in her official capacity as treasurer.

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1 and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 433(a) and 434(a) by failing to file the appropriate 2 reports with the Commission based on prosecutorial discretion; 3 (6) Authorize post-probable cause conciliation: 4 **(7)** 5 (8) Approve the appropriate letters; and 6 **(9)** 7 8 II. **BACKGROUND** 9 This matter was initiated through a complaint filed by the Republican National 10 Committee ("RNC") which alleged that certain solicitations to the public made by the 11 Republican Victory Committee, Inc. a/k/a Republican Victory 2004 Committee ("the 12 RVC") violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), by 13 knowingly and willfully fraudulently misrepresenting itself as being affiliated with or 14 acting on behalf of the Republican Party. Based on the information available at the time, 15 including a response from Ms. Novacek, the Commission found reason to believe that: 16 (1) the RVC and Ms. Novacek, in her personal capacity, knowingly and willfully violated 17 2 U.S.C. §§ 433(a) and 434(a) by failing to file the appropriate reports with the 18 Commission; (2) the RVC and Ms. Novacek, in her personal capacity, violated 2 U.S.C. 19 § 441h(b)(1) by knowingly and willfully participating in a scheme or plan designed to 20 fraudulently misrepresent themselves as soliciting funds on behalf of the Republican 21 National Committee; (3) BPO, Inc. and BPO Advantage LP (collectively, "the BPO 22 entities") violated 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(2) by knowingly and willfully participating in a

scheme or plan designed to fraudulently misrepresent themselves as soliciting funds on

- behalf of the Republican National Committee;<sup>2</sup> and (4) the RVC violated 2 U.S.C.
- 2 §§ 441d(a) and 441d(c) by failing to affix the appropriate disclaimer to its solicitations.
- 3 The Commission took no action at that time regarding Jason Novacek and Freeda
- 4 Novacek although the Complaint named them as respondents.
- 5 Since the Commission's reason to believe determination, our investigation
- 6 confirmed that Ms. Novacek was the sole individual responsible for both the RVC and
- 7 the BPO smitted and that, through the RVC and the BPO entities, she made fraudulent
- 8 misrepresentations to vendors and to the general public stating or implying that the RVC
- 9 was raising money for the Republican Party and/or the RNC. In response to these
- 10 fraudulent solicitations, the RVC ultimately received approximately \$75,000 in
- 11 contributions. See General Counsel's Brief ("GC Brief") at 3, fn. 2 for more information
- 12 regarding the contributions received by the RVC. Furthermore, the disclaimers added to
- the solicitations did not conform to the Act's requirements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> We have addressed the BPO entities collectively. BPO, Inc. was the equivalent of a parent company for BPO Advantage, LP. In addition, with respect to the activities subject to this investigation, the BPO entities operated as a single unit and Ms. Novacek was the sole individual responsible for and acting on behalf of both entities, which, essentially, were her alter exos.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ms. Novemic continued will attempts at constant for marrly a year and a half. She minest to accept the reason to believe matifications sent via manified mail to her last known and use in Texas, and we remainedly attempted to cantact has by using a private process server and through the United States Manhall's office in Dallas. However, neither was successful in locating Ms. Novacek, and Ms. Novacek refused to respond to any notifications left at her door by U.S. Marshalls. We were eventually able to locate and serve Ms. Novacek in Nebraska.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ms. Novacek incorporated the RVC in Texas in early 2074. Nis. Novacek essentially was the RVC; no one che assisted litt or was an employee or member of, or even a volunteer for, the RVC. In her deposition testimenty, Ms. Novacek described hauself as the "boundatid" or "foundati" of the RVC. General Counsel's listed at 3-4. Size conducted all of RVC's activities from her house and had so help, soher than the assistance of neighbour to help her take in her mail or open envelopes when she was out of town. Id. at 4. She admitted that she alone did all the work for the RVC.

misrepresentations.

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1 Ms. Novacek was served with the GC Brief, which is incorporated herein by 2 reference setting forth our position on the factual and legal issues of the matter. In 3 response, Respondents dispute many of the factual conclusions discussed in the Brief. 4 See Reply Brief ("RVC Brief"). In particular, Ms. Novacek asserts that the RVC never 5 represented itself to its fundraising vendors, Apex CoVantage, Inc. ("Apex") or 6 Advantage, Inc. ("Advantage"), as working with or on behalf of the Republican National 7 Committee ("RNC"); that any violations of the Act (including the disclaimer violation) 8 were unintentional "rookie mistakes" and not knowing and willful violations of the Act: 9 and that any statements to the contrary regarding the misrepresentations provided by 10 individuals associated with Apex and Advantage are false. See RVC Brief. 11 However, the evidence, including statements from four Apex employees, 12 establishes that Ms. Novacek, acting on behalf of the RVC and BPO entities, made fraudulent misrepresentations to fundraising vendors and to the general public stating or 13 14 implying that the RVC was raising money for the Republican Party and/or the RNC. 15 Further, Ms. Novacek has not produced any evidence to corroborate her version of the 16 events, namely that she made it clear to both Amex and Advantage employees that she 17 was not working on behalf of the RNC, nor has see provided any evidence improuding 18 the credibility of the witnesses who provided information regarding her fraudulent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> As discussed more fully in the GC Brief at pages 4-12, Ms. Novacek crafted a telemarketing fundraising campaign to solicit donations to the RVC, and made all financial and contractual arrangements through BPO. In furtherwage of hes campaign, Ms. Novacek hired Apex as a subcontractor to make the first set of fundraising calls with mailings requesting the promised contributions and donations. *Id.* at 4. A few months after the program when Apex was terminated, Ms. Novacek began a second set of calls with a different vendor, Advantage. *Id.* Advantage made similar solicitation calls and both sets of solicitation calls generated a total of approximately \$75,000 in contributions. *Id.* at 5.

1 Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the GC Brief and discussed below, we 2 recommend that the Commission find probable cause to believe that RVC and Jody 3 Novacek, in her personal capacity, knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. 4 § 441h(b)(1); probable cause to believe that the RVC violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441d(a) and 441d(c); probable cause to believe that the BPO entities knowingly and willfully violated 5 6 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(2); seed exercise its prosecuturial discretion and take no further action in regard to the finding that the RVC and Joseph Novecok, in her personal capacity, 7 knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 433a and 434(a). We also recommend that 8 9 the Commission find no reason to believe that Jason and Freeda Novacek, Ms. Novacek's 10 brother and sister-in-law, who were listed as directors of the RVC, violated the Act

because it appears they were not involved with the operations of the RVC.

### 12 III. ANALYSIS

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A. The Respondents' fraudulent misrepresentations constitute knowing and willful violations of the Act.

During our investigation, we obtained statements from four Apex employees with whom Ms. Novacek dealt during the contract negotiations between Apex and the RVC as well as the resulting solicitation program. GC Brief at 5-6. These individuals clearly stated that, based on Ms. Novacek's oral and written representations, they believed that the RVC was raising money for the Republican Party and/or the RNC. The written representations include the Statement of Work attached to the contract between Apex and the BPO entities and signed by Ms. Novacek, which described the program as "Outbound Telemarketing Fundraising for the Republican Party" and discussed the revenue split that will go to the "GOP." GC Brief at 6; Attachment 3. Further, the solicitation calls were followed up with letters that included statements, which either explicitly or implicitly

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1 referred to the Republican Party. For example, the letter contains the following

2 statements: "I am grateful that our Party can count on your help to support Republicans

3 across the country win elections." and "The Republican Party can count on my support to

help candidates at the state & local level." See Attachment 2.

Respondents argue that the RVC never represented to vendors or the public that it was soliciting funds on behalf of the Republican Party or the P.NC, although it did consider itself as a "small piece of the Republican marketplace." See RVC Brief at 2.

Ms. Novacek contends that she made it clear to the Apex employees, during the course of the contract negotiations and subsequent solicitation efforts on behalf of the RVC, that the RVC was not affiliated with the RNC. Id. at 6. She also takes issue with the veracity of the statements provided by the Apex employees, namely Tom Maddux, and claims that Mr. Maddux is being forced to misrepresent the truth in order to retain his employment with Apex. Id. at 3. Ms. Novacek also argues that, if the Respondents' actions are viewed as being in violation of the Act, those actions should be considered as the result of unintentional "rookie mistakes" and not knowing and willful violations of the Act. Id. at 4, 9.

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As to the "GOP" reference contained in the Statement of Work, Ms. Nevember offers no specific explanation for its inclusion as part of the Apex contract. She has offered only a general explanation for the misrepresentations in her verbal discussions, contractual agreement and solicitations, namely that she believed she could use such terms since the RVC considered itself as a "small piece of the Republican marketplace." RVC Brief at 4. Ms. Novacek provides the same general explanation for the inclusion of the terms "GOP" and "Republican Party" as well as specific references to candidates in

1 the follow up letters that were sent to potential contributors after the initial solicitation

2 calls. *Id.* at 10.

Ms. Novacek's assertion that all of these individuals, particularly Mr. Maddux<sup>6</sup>, are being untruthful is simply not credible given the fact that Ms. Novacek has provided no reasonable motivation for any of these individuals to misrepresent the truth in this matter. Specifically, Ms. Novacek claims that Mr. Maddux is misrepresenting the truth in an effort to retain his employment with Apex. However, she provides no mitimals as to why Mr. Maddux's employment with Apex would be in jeopardy or how his alleged misrepresentation would further his efforts to retain his position with Apex.

Additional evidence in this matter includes statements from individuals who received solicitation calls and subsequently contributed to the RVC. RVC Brief at 10.

All of these individuals believed that they were being asked to contribute to the Republican Party or the RNC. See GC Brief at 9. Ms. Novacek attempts to cast doubt on the veracity of these individuals, stating that she finds it difficult to believe that these individuals could all recall the specifics of the solicitation calls as well as the beliefs they had when reading the contributions after so smuch time had elapsed. Id. Yet, the fast remains that all six contributions have stated their belief that they were giving to a subgroup of the RNC or to a group similar to the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and all believed that their money was going to be used toward the re-election of President Bush. See GC Brief at 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Mr. Maddux was the Group President of Apex and responsible for the Knowledge Processing Outsourcing Group which handled the company's call center business. Although, Mr. Maddux had only recently begun working with Apex in 2003 when he was approached by Ms. Novacek about hiring Apex, he had been personally acquainted with Ms. Novacek for many years prior to that time.

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Based on the available evidence set forth above, the RVC and Ms. Novacek violated § 441h(b)(1) by making phone calls, mailing letters and entering into agreements for the purpose of soliciting contributions while misrepresenting that they were acting under the authority of the Republican Party. In addition, the violations of the Act were knowing and willful. See GC Brief at 17. The evidence establishes that these are not the misguided actions of a "rookie" but rather the deliberate and intentional actions of an individual well varand in the political telemarketing area as elemonatriated by Ms. Novacek's own testimony. GC Brief at 3. Ms. Novacek had extensive personal experience working with bona-fide Republican-affiliated entities, including candidates, candidate authorized political committees, the RNC, and state parties. However, it is important to note that Ms. Novacek repeatedly refers to the Respondents' fraudulent misrepresentations as merely "rookie mistakes," while at the same time providing a detailed description of her knowledge and experience in telemarketing fundraising for political clients. See RVC Brief at 5, 8-9 and 12; see also GC Brief at 3. Based on the breselth of her knowledge and experience in this area, Ms. Novæck was aware or should have been aware that the use of the wording "Republican Fusty," "GOP," "RNC" and referencing spenific candidates such as George Bush in her conversations with Apex personnel, the Apex contract, phone solicitations and follow up letters would reasonably give Apex and potential contributors the impression that the RVC was raising funds on behalf of the Republican Party or the RNC. Furthermore, because the RVC was operated solely by Ms. Novacek, it was the legal entity that financially "benefited" from Ms. Novacek's actions, had no existence other than through the actions of Ms. Novacek and acted as her alter ego, we believe

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1 there is sufficient evidence that the RVC should be held responsible for knowingly and

2 willfully fraudulently misrepresenting itself as part of the Republican Party and/or the

3 RNC. See 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(1). Similarly, because Ms. Novacek also was the only

4 individual responsible for the BPO entities and because the BPO entities entered into

5 contracts on behalf of the RVC to make the solicitation calls in question, we believe that

the BPO entities also should be held responsible for knowingly and willfully participating

in or conspiring to participate in a scheme or plan to freudulently misrepresent the RVC

as representing the Republican Party and/or RNC. See 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(2).

#### B. The RVC yielated the disclaimer provision of the Act.

The RVC made more than 500 solicitation phone calls of an identical or substantially similar nature within a 30-day period. See GC Brief at 10-12. See also 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.26, 100.28. Nonetheless, although the calls and the follow-up letters stated that they were made (in the case of the calls) or paid for (in the case of the letters) by the "Republican Victory Committee," it is undisputed that the call script did not contain a sufficient disclaimer as to who paid for or authorized the calls despite the fact that they were direct solicitations for donations, and the disclaimer on the letter was not in a box and did not contain the statest address, talephone number or World Wisle Web address of the RVC as required by 2 U.S.C. § 441d(a); 11 C.F.R. § 1i0.11(a). Ser Attachment 2. Ms. Novacek admitted that she knew she needed to use a disclaimer on the calls and mailers because of her prior political work. GC Brief at 21. She claimed that she thought her disclaimer was "in compliance," but also admitted that, despite her repeated references to election law in correspondence with Apex and Advantage and in the solicitations made by Advantage which gave the impression that she was somewhat

1 knowledgeable about the legal requirements, she never read the Act or Commission

2 regulations. Id.

Ms. Novacek, in the RVC's brief, has offered no new defense regarding the lack of an appropriate disclaimer on the letters and phone calls except to add that it was a "first time around the block" mistake. RVC Brief at 9. Therefore, we recommend that the Commission find probable cause to believe that the RVC and Ms. Novacek, in her official capacity as treasurer violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441d(a) and 441d(c).

C. Jason and Freeda Novacek were not involved with the operations of the RVC and, therefore, have not violated any provision of the Act.

Jason Novacek is Ms. Novacek's brother; his wife is Freeda Novacek. Dep. at 100:4-6. They are listed as directors of the RVC on the articles of incorporation filed in Texas, as well as the Form 8871 filed with the IRS. Attachment 1. They were referenced in the Complaint as potential respondents and were notified accordingly; the Commission has not yet taken any action with respect to them.

Ms. Novacek claimed that neither Jason nor Freeda Novacek were involved in any actual activities engaged in by the RVC, had no knowledge of any details of the RVC, and did not give any advice or have any input into the RVC's activities. See Dep. at 194:16-105:1.7 Neither Mr. Maddux (Apex) ner Mr. Butzket (Advantage) ever did any work with or recall ever hearing about Jason or Freeda Novacek. Other than the articles of incorporation and Form 8871 prepared and filed by Ms. Novacek, Jason and Freeda

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ms. Novacek initially claimed that Jason and Freeda Novacek knew their names were listed as directors on the forms; however, later she implied that they had "generally" agreed to work for the Committee and that the only conversations Ms. Novacek had with Jason and Freeda Novacek appear to have been casual conversations among family members. Dep. at 104:16-22.

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with the Respondents.

1	Novacek do not appear on any other documents or in any other correspondence relating
2	to the RVC.
3	In addition, even on the forms prepared by Ms. Novacek, the address for Jason
4	and Freeda Novacek is actually Ms. Novacek's home address in Texas. Attachment 1.
5	Therefore, it appears that neither Jason nor Freeda Novacek were actually involved in an
6	way with the RVC. Fer those reasons, we recommend that the Commission find no
7	reason to believe that Jason and Freeda Novacak violated the Act.
8 9 10 11 12 13	D. The Commission should exercise its prosecutorial discretion and take no further action in regard to the reason to believe finding that the RVC and Jody Novacek, in her personal capacity, knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 433(a) and 434(a). The Commission previously found reason to believe that the RVC and Jody
14	Novacek, in her personal capacity, knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 433(a)
15	and 434(a) by failing to file the appropriate disclosure reports with the Commission. In
16	light of the other serious violations at issue in this matter, we did not include a discussion
17	of these issues in the GC Brief. Therefore, we recommend that the Commission exercise
18	its prosecutorial discretion and take no further action regarding these violations. See
19	Herkler v. Charmy, 470 U.S. 821 (1985).
20	IV. DISCUSSION OF CONCILIATION AND CIVIL PENALTY
21	We recommend that the Commission enter into post-probable cause conciliation

٧. **RECOMMENDATIONS** 1. Find probable cause to believe that the RVC and Jody Novacek, in her personal and official capacities, knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(1); 2. Find probable cause to believe that the RVC and Jody Novacek, in her official capacity, violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441d(a) and 441d(c); 3. Find probable cause to believe that the BPO entities knowingly and willfully violated 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b)(2); 4. Take no further action in regard to the reason to believe findings that the RVC and Jody Novacek, in her personal and official capacities, knowingly and willfully 2 U.S.C. §§ 433(a) and 434(a) based on exercise of prosecutorial discretion; 5. Find no reason to believe Janon and Freeda Novacek violated the Act and close the file as to these respondents; 6. Authorize post-probable cause conciliation: 7. 8. Thomasenis P. Duncan General Counsel Kathleen Guith **Acting Deputy Associate General** Counsel for Enforcement 

 1. 2.

MUR 5472 (Republican Victory Committee) General Counsel's Report #2 Page 15	
	Sidney Rocke Assistant General Counsel
	Kimberly Hart Attorney
Attachments:	-

Articles of Incorporation for Republican Victory Committee, Inc. RVC Mailer for Apex Calls

Form 202

Filing Fee: \$25

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Articles of incorporation
Pursuant to Article 3.92
Texas Non-Profit
Corporation Act

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of Tuxes Filing #: 800334666 91/27/2004 December #: 58833420003. Image Generated Electronically for Web Filing

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# Republican Victory 2004 Committee

2117 L Street NW # 125 · Westlington, DC 20037-1524

March 10, 2004

«FirstName» «LastName» «Address!» «City», «ST» «ZIP»

DEAR FirstNames.

Thank you for speaking with my assistant «Agent» by telephone meantly and your generous pledge of \$-\$PLD=00. I'm grateful our Party can count on your help to support Republicans across the country win elections. We are fortunate to have President Bush in the White House and our top priorities are to improve the American accuracy and defeat Democrats at all levels. Your gift will help local and state candidates running for office in your state. Strong suggest at the local and state levels will help get Republicans to the polls in November.

As you've heard on the evening news, the Democrats are hard at work raising money and distorting the Republican reverd and agends. Your pledge of Self\_De00 is critical in our efforts to build support for Republicans at all levels as we prepare for the November elections. I hope you'll send your generous gift promptly.

Please return the receipt below to ensure your gift is processed properly. For your convenience, we've enclosed a postage-paid, stamped envelope. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Anna Collins

•	. Ama Collins Membership Chairman				
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The Republican Party can count on my support to help candi prepare for the November election. My contribution is enclosed.  ( ) \$<\mathbb{PLD=00}\$ ( ) \$	ed:	e & local level. I'm proud to help our Party			
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